

## **REMARKS**

If clarification of the amendment or application is desired, or if issues are present, which the Examiner believes may be quickly resolved, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

### ***Summary of Changes Made***

The Application was filed with 9 (nine) claims. A preliminary amendment left the subject matter and number of claims unchanged. Presently, Applicants elect **with traverse** the claims of Group I (claims 1-7 and 9), and claim 8 is hereby withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9 (8 claims) remain pending in the application. No new matter is added hereby.

### ***Restriction Requirement - Traverse***

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. The Examiner contends that the claims of Group I (1-7 and 9) and Group II (claim 8) do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. The Examiner contends that the special technical feature of the two Groups is disclosed in Kimura, U.S. 6,000,804, ("Kimura"). The Examiner provides no further technical or scientific comparison between the disclosures of Kimura and the subject matter of instant claims 1 and 8.

The grounds for Applicants' traversal are as follows. Kimura fails to disclose the transparent material layer of claims 1 and 8. This transparent layer comprises "low-reflectance portions, and high-reflectance portions having a higher reflectance than the low-reflectance portions, wherein a distributed pattern of the high-reflectance portions being used to record an information code."

Further, the laminated member of claims 1 and 8 require a reflection-reduction layer for reducing reflected light advancing to the transparent material layer (the surface layer) in order to correctly read the recorded information code to the transparent material layer. In contrast, Kimura fails to disclose the laminated member of claims 1 and 8, yet requires a reflective substrate in order to gather reflected light for emphasizing the reflected light advancing to the surface layer, *see Kimura, claim 2*. It is believed that the special technical

feature of claims 1 and 8 essentially performs a function opposite to that in Kimura: reducing reflected light in instant claims 1 and 8 as opposed to “emphasizing” reflected light in Kimura.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants assert that the special technical feature common to claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed by Kimura. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 1 and 8 provides a contribution over the prior art because they form part of a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. IWI-16110.

Respectfully submitted,

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